

MIA Road Shows June 23 1965 Provo Herald

Heber Tabernacle Readied For Benefit Performance

HEBER CITY — Brooms and elbow grease were applied this weekend to the historic Heber Tabernacle in preparation for the first public event to be held there since last fall.

Volunteer crews cleaned the building to get it ready for the benefit performance scheduled Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. of three prize-winning MIA road shows which were presented at the June Conference in Salt Lake City last night.

Don Barker, Heber businessman who is chairman of the Save-the-Tabernacle Committee, said the shows will be staged in the tabernacle with no admission charge, but contributions to the Save-the-Tabernacle fund will be accepted.

Three Top Shows

Through the efforts of Salt Lake City people enlisted in the fight to save the stately old tabernacle, the Emigration Ward, Butler Stake and Hillside Stake road shows will be presented Wednesday night, with all proceeds going to the tabernacle preservation fund.

It will be the first public event in the tabernacle since a talent contest was held there last August in connection with the Wasatch County Fair. For nearly a year, Wasatch Stake

agreed to turn \$15,000 toward the new Wasatch High School. The road shows will be part of a campaign to raise necessary funds to save the tabernacle, built in the late 1880s, from destruction.

Year-Long Fight

The battle to save the building, which in many respects has achieved statewide status, began when Wasatch LDS Stake officials announced plans to tear it down and build a stake center and two-ward chapel complex on the site. It has seen sawed back and forth for nearly a year.

The LDS First Presidency has told supporters of the preservation movement that funds must be raised to purchase a new site if the tabernacle is to be saved. This will require \$60,000, of which some \$43,000 has already been assured if the balance can be raised.

City Would Aid

The Heber City Council has World's second largest freshwater lake is Lake Victoria, in Africa; Lake Superior ranks first.

Des News 24 June '65
Stanford Professor

Joins In Heber Fight

Dr. Wallace Stegner, Western author and director of the Creative Writing Center and professor of English, Stanford University, has joined the fight to save Heber's historic Wasatch Stake Tabernacle.



Dr. Stegner, a member of the National Parks Monument and Historical Sites Advisory Com-

Everett L. Cooley, Utah Historical Society director, urging preservation of the building. Dr. Stegner, because of illness in his family, had to cancel an appearance at a benefit road

show Wednesday night to help save the building from demolition. He told Dr. Cooley, "Your effort to save the tabernacle deserves support from throughout Utah."

Westerners are nearly without a visible history and each building that is preserved helps prevent that visible history from deteriorating further, he told Dr. Cooley.

"If you can preserve this lovely historical tabernacle, it will become more precious each year," the prize-winning historian added.

Dr. Stegner's books include "Mormon Country," "The Big Rock Candy Mountain," "Beyond the Hundredth Meridian," a biography of explorer John Wesley Powell and others.

Des News 29 June 1965
New Wasatch

History Group

HEBER CITY — The Wasatch Historical Society was organized Monday and permanent officers elected — a new phase is preserving and restoring the stately red stone Wasatch Stake Tabernacle.

Don Barker was named as president; Guy McDonald, vice president; Barbara McDonald, secretary, and Ruth Mae Witt, treasurer.

Dr. Joseph Hatch and Garn Hatch, Salt Lake City, were named as advisers.

The organization will be a chapter of the Utah State Historical Society with the responsibility of preserving and restoring the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, previously slated for demolition.

A brochure has been prepared for the state society, and his was ready for mailing. It was prepared by the "Save the Ta-

ber-nacle Committee" — for-mer of the historical society. It gives the history of the edifice, notes its potential as a cul-ture center and the criteria for preservation.

The brochure will be mailed to 1,125 camp captains of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, to all historical societies in the state and to all citizens of Wasatch County.

Another fund drive will be made to increase the \$9,000 collected to date.

Heber City has pledged the proceeds of the sale of undeveloped property. About \$18,000 is needed to make immediate repairs and pay maintenance for the first year.

Dr. Everett L. Cooley, director of the state society, and his wife attended the meeting and assisted in the organization.